

REMARKS

The above amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office action dated May 4, 2006. With the cancellation of claims 1-6, 10, 12-13, 16 and 19-23, claims 7-9, 11, 14-15 and 17-18 are presented herewith for consideration. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 24-37.

Objection to Claims

Claims 7-9, 11, 14-15 and 17-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 7, 9, 11, 14, 15 and 17 have been rewritten as independent claims as suggested by the Examiner including all of the limitations of the base claims. Claim 8 is dependent on claim 7 and claim 18 is dependent on claim 17. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objection to these claims be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 10, 12 and 13 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 10, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,390,466 to Johnson et al. ("*Johnson*").

Although applicants respectfully disagree, claims 1, 2, 10, 12 and 13 are cancelled in order to expedite issuance of the allowed claims.

Rejection of Claims 3-6, 16 and 19-23 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3-6, 16 and 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Johnson*.

Although applicants respectfully disagree, claims 3-6, 16 and 19-23 are cancelled in order to expedite issuance of the allowed claims.

Based on the above amendments and these remarks, it is respectfully requested that claims 7-9, 11, 14-15 and 17-18 be passed to issue.

Should further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501826 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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